

COAL MADE P. R. N. MEN RICH.

ONE OFFICIAL IS NEARLY HALF A MILLION AHEAD.

William A. Patton, Assistant to President Cassatt, Vice-President Rea and Chief Executive of the Pennsylvania Railroad, placed upon the table before the Interstate Commerce Commission today, admitted that without the expenditure of one penny, he is today a millionaire, while he was an officer of the railroad company and without the expenditure of energy or effort.

Mr. Patton was by no means the only witness through whose admissions the system of graft prevailing in the Pennsylvania Railroad was thrown into prominence, for many others told the same tale. A notable case was that of J. M. Furviance, chief clerk to Mr. Patton, who through friendship with Mr. Patton and Col. Huff, a coal operator and promoter, has now about \$500,000 worth of coal stocks which cost him not a cent.

Just what he did for them the witness failed to tell very clearly, the main feature of his evidence, like that of his chief, being an indistinct recollection. He had stood to lose something, he said, but just how much he did not remember. It was brought out, however, that he never did lose anything.

First Vice-President Green and Third Vice-President Samuel Rea were also witnesses to-day. Capt. Rea attempted to justify the system, at the evidence of which, a few days ago, he expressed great surprise, and which he promised to investigate. His plea was based upon a statement made by J. Edgar Thomson, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1874, when Mr. Thomson is alleged to have said that as the railroad could not pay big salaries, the men should engage in promoting enterprises along the line of the railroad.

He admitted that this did not mean the distributing of free blocks of stocks among railway employees, but the actual investment of money and the actual promotion of companies.

Mr. Green does not possess and never did possess any coal mining stock and this fact led Chairman Knapp of the commission to ask the witness if his failure to have stock in coal companies did not lead his subordinates to believe him eccentric.

Capt. Green said in answer to questions put by Mr. Glasgow:

"I have been with the company forty years."

"Did you own any coal property directly or indirectly?"

"I never did, on the Pennsylvania Railroad or any other railroad."

"Has the Pennsylvania Railroad any interest in the Adams Express Company?"

"None whatever, and it never had, except in contract that exists between the two companies."

"Is the Pennsylvania Railroad interested in the Susquehanna Coal Company?"

"Yes, sir, it owns that company outright."

"How long has this been?"

"Ever since I have been connected with the road."

"Have you ever suspected any of your subordinates of holding stocks in coal companies?"

"Not exactly, for the very reason that when the act of Assembly of 1874 was passed there was a feeling against officers and employees of railroads holding such interests. The policy of J. Edgar Thomson, then president, however, was that when officers and others had money to invest they were encouraged to invest it along the lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad. But they were not encouraged to take stock without paying for it. Officers were permitted to invest in coal companies, which is perfectly legal."

"But as to the propriety of it, Captain, we are not discussing that. We are talking of the legality of the proceeding and are accusing no one of being a criminal; but the policy of it."

"It is not the policy of the Pennsylvania Railroad to authorize such an investment. I do not think it is necessary to ask that."

"I don't want the public," continued Capt. Green, "to get the idea that ownership of coal stocks in good faith is either illegal or improper. I believe that you, Mr. Glasgow, and the gentlemen of the commission wish to be perfectly fair."

"We don't want," said counsel for the commission, "to put anybody in a false position, but it is a subject for much adverse criticism for railroad officials to possess such stocks." "We think the whole thing is a question of good faith," replied Mr. Green.

Asked about unfairness in the distribution of coal stocks Capt. Green answered:

"Though the Pennsylvania Railroad spends millions annually in the purchase of cars, it is impossible for us to supply the demand. We don't want a private car on our lines. They are most unsatisfactory."

"What do you know about the delivery of special orders of cars to the Berwind-White Coal Company and to James W. Ellsworth during the anthracite strike?" queried Mr. Glasgow. "I had nothing to do with it. You must get your information from the officers who had charge of the distribution."

Mr. Green then left the stand and Third Vice-President Samuel Rea succeeded him.

Mr. Rea has coal stocks, and has been engaged in the promotion of coal companies and the buying and selling of coal lands for years. He asserted that he did so openly, and thought he was justified in the practice, but he did say, in answer to a question by Mr. Glasgow, that he did not believe that any official having to do with the distribution of coal cars should, under present conditions, own stock in coal companies. Most of the men shown to have stock given to them, outright had something to do with the distribution of coal cars.

Mr. Rea's admission of ownership in coal lands and of participation in the promotion of the Greenwell Coal Company ends the controversy created by two witnesses who recently contradicted each other upon this point.

"Do you own any coal stock?" Mr. Rea was asked. "Yes; I have a written statement of my interests with me and would like to read it."

He said that during 1902, through Col.

SPIER WAS NOT MURDERED.

JURY SAYS SPIER WAS FIRED BY HIS OWN HAND.

Not Even Not Possible Direction of Suicide Within a Dramatic Witness Statement of \$500,000 Loss in Stocks.

After a session of seven hours without break or recess the jurymen's jury which inquired into the cause of the death of Charles E. Spier in his home, 7 Thompson avenue, New Brighton, Staten Island, rendered a verdict last night that he came to his death by a bullet wound in the chest, and that "the shot was fired by his own hand." The jury did not have sufficient evidence to decide definitely whether it was a case of suicide or accident.

The inquest was marked by an acrimonious row between several members of the jury and Coroner Matthew J. Cahill, because the jurymen and witnesses were held for hours without opportunity to get anything to eat. A feature also was the dramatic manner in which Mrs. Spier, the widow, identified the revolver which caused her husband's death. She handled the weapon with the skill of an expert in firearms and after a close examination of it she raised it in the air and pulled the trigger.

Not until the hammer fell with a snap did she answer "yes" to the question whether or not it was her husband's weapon.

Thirty-three witnesses were examined, the most important of whom were the widow, H. H. Rogers, Jr., Frank P. Keech of Keech, Loew & Co., and several neighbors, one of whom, Glenn E. Smith, a civil engineer, swore positively that he heard five shots fired on the night in question, the first two of which followed a woman's scream. Then there was another woman for help, after which three more shots were fired by the baker's boy, John Martin. Two other neighbors, women, testified to hearing three pistol shots fired after a woman screamed for help. They were evidently Martin's shots. Mrs. Spier stuck to her story that there were two shots fired in the house.

Not much light was thrown on Spier's financial transactions, except that Mr. Keech admitted that Spier was indebted to his firm at the time he was shot "for more than \$300,000, which had been reduced by the selling of securities the firm held to a loss of \$57,500."

The jury was composed of some of the best known men on the island, including Walter C. Kerr, president of Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Co.; Ernest F. Hoffman, the architect; J. Fred Smith, the large real estate operator; William Anderson, Jarvis Fairchild and Clark Dunham, brokers in New York; H. W. Koenig, A. W. Jones, Abram Greenwood, Theodore Gogel, G. A. Barth and Jacob Kirschner. The testimony begun with the physicians in the case and it disclosed a wide difference of opinion as to how close the revolver was held to Spier's body when he was killed.

Dr. George Mord the coroner's physician, told of the wound, and then said that the weapon must have been some inches away from Spier, because there were no powder marks visible around or in the wound. Dr. C. W. Townsend, who was one of the physicians who responded to the cries for help, testified that the muzzle of the weapon must have been held close to the body, almost in contact with it, and he declared that the powder had evidently gone into the wound with the bullet.

Then came the testimony of two women neighbors living on either side of the Spier home. Miss H. Shalkenberg of 5 Tompkins avenue swore that she was awakened by a woman's scream and that she heard three pistol shots. Mrs. Flora Hoffman of 9 Tompkins avenue also swore that she was awakened by the same scream and heard three pistol shots. The scream evidently was that of Mrs. Spier when she went to the door to cry for help and the shots were the three shots that Martin fired at Mrs. Spier's request to attract help.

Then Mr. Balch testified that he had been kept awake all night by a "splitting headache." He lives on Belmont place, within 300 feet of the Spier home, and from a balcony outside his room he could see the Spier front door. Mr. Balch swore with great positiveness that he heard a woman scream. Then came two pistol shots in rapid succession, fired, he was sure, by the same weapon; then more screams. He rushed to his telephone to call for help, and while there heard one shot, and then two more after an interval of about five minutes. These three shots undoubtedly were those fired by Martin.

After two night watchmen had testified about hearing the three shots fired Precinct Detective J. W. Lawson told how the police reached the house. He said that there were no traces of any burglar, that Dr. H. W. Patterson, the family physician, had said that nothing had been disturbed except the revolver, which Dr. Patterson picked up from the floor and had placed on a chair, and that Mrs. Spier was explicit in declaring that she heard only one pistol shot. He read his written report telling how Mrs. Spier had told of her husband coming to her room, how he had taken the revolver from a bureau drawer and had gone down stairs crying to the dog, "Slack em, Buster."

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Dowler told how they had been summoned to the house by telephone and how they found Mrs. Spier lying prostrate over her husband's body. Mrs. Dowler said she and Dr. Patterson had helped Mrs. Spier up stairs. They corroborated Dr. Patterson's statement that the back doors of the house were open and that nothing had been disturbed before the police arrived. All the witnesses up to this point agreed about the seven or eight pieces of silver that were lying in the corner of the dining room, with the revolver beside the chair.

John Martin, the baker's boy, said that he had been within 200 feet of the house for ten minutes before Mrs. Spier screamed for help. He heard no noises until the scream came. He was three doors away and did not respond at first because he thought it might be a family row. When he heard the cry of murder he ran to the door and found Mrs. Spier, who said "her boy" had been murdered. She told him to run for Dr. Patterson. He aroused the doctor, fired one shot from his revolver, and then ran back. Mrs. Spier told him to go again to Dr. Pat-

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The assembly today voted the foreign mission board \$1,500,000. The assembly also adopted a resolution condemning the Mormons and polygamy. The King James version of the Bible will stand. The assembly refused to importune Congress to stop the granting of lands to the Lutherans and Catholics.

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